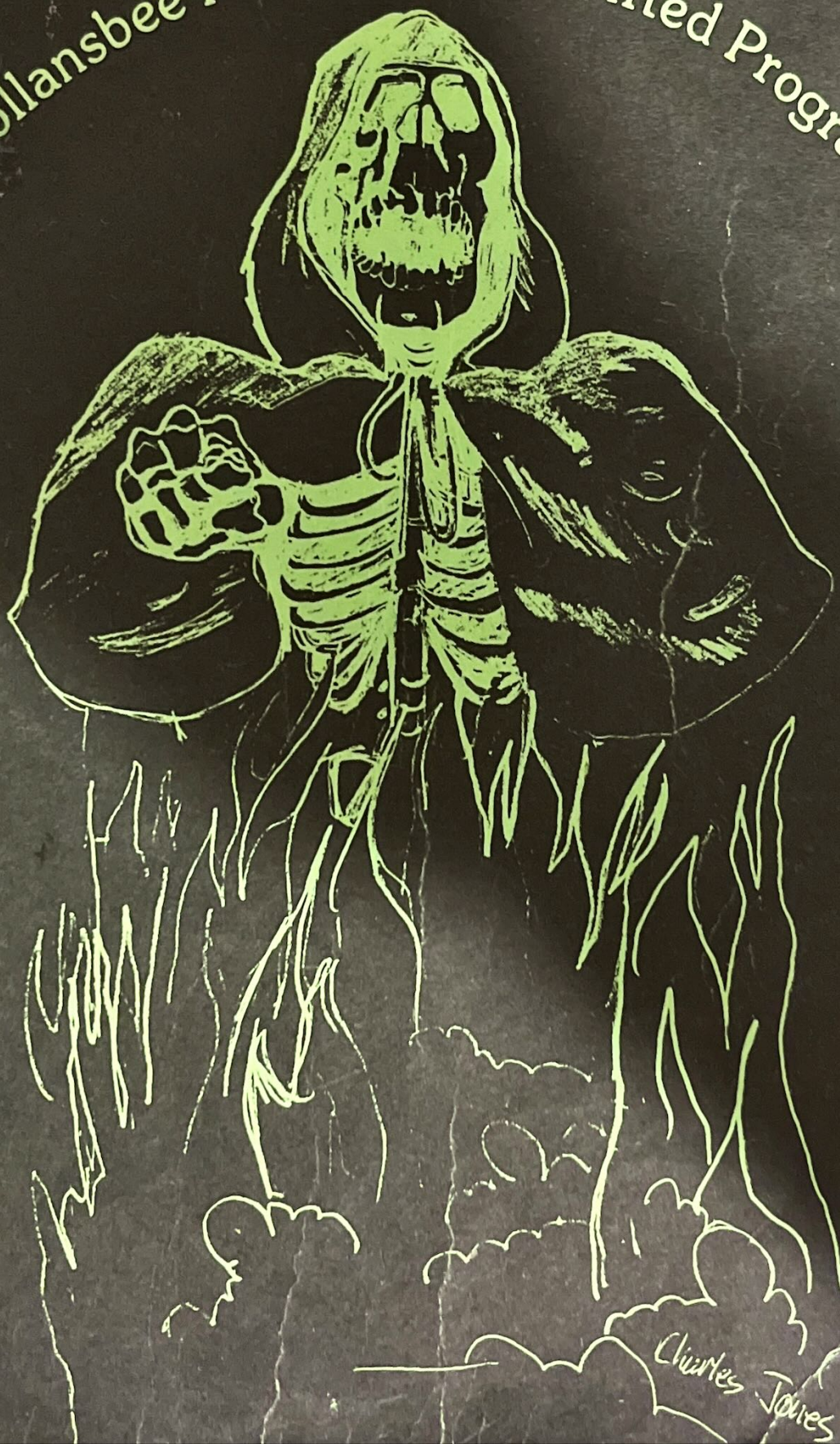
Brooke Book of Ghosts & Facts

by

Follansbee Middle School Gifted Program



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The Brooke Book of Ghosts and Facts has been written and edited by the previous list of people. The authors are a group of students who attend Follansbee Middle School, and participate in a program for academically gifted children. The twenty who have helped to make this book are by no means a total of all the talented students attending F.M.S., but they are the few who have been identified as "Special" because of their unusually high I.Q.s.

This book is the result of five months of hard work. Stories were hard to come by. Several newspapers ran articles to help the students solicit stories, but not many showed an interest in our project.

The stories in our book are true, at least that is what we were told by the story-teller or the witness.

We would like to thank Louise Roberts and Eura Ulrich for their help. They were responsible for telling us our first Brooke Ghost stories. They were generous with their time and came to F.M.S. to meet with us and answer our questions.

We would also like to thank our Principal, Robert Guio, who has backed us all the way with this project.

This book was written to entertain and give some factual information about some very strange phenomena. It is something that we are proud of and hope you enjoy.

Mrs. Teresa Taylor
Teacher of the Gifted

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The Tidy Ghosts

Years ago there was an older couple who lived on Walker Road. They were extremely neat and could always be seen working around the house.

Later after the couple had died a younger couple with three children moved in to their house. As in most households with children, it sometimes became cluttered and disorderly. When this would happen the occupants would hear footsteps and movement though nobody could be seen. The mysterious sounds would stop only when the house had been cleaned.

To this day the young family can still hear the ghosts when the house is disorderly. The most recent experience was when the husband was home alone during the day. He heard the ghost walk down the stairs and brush against a basket of clothes.

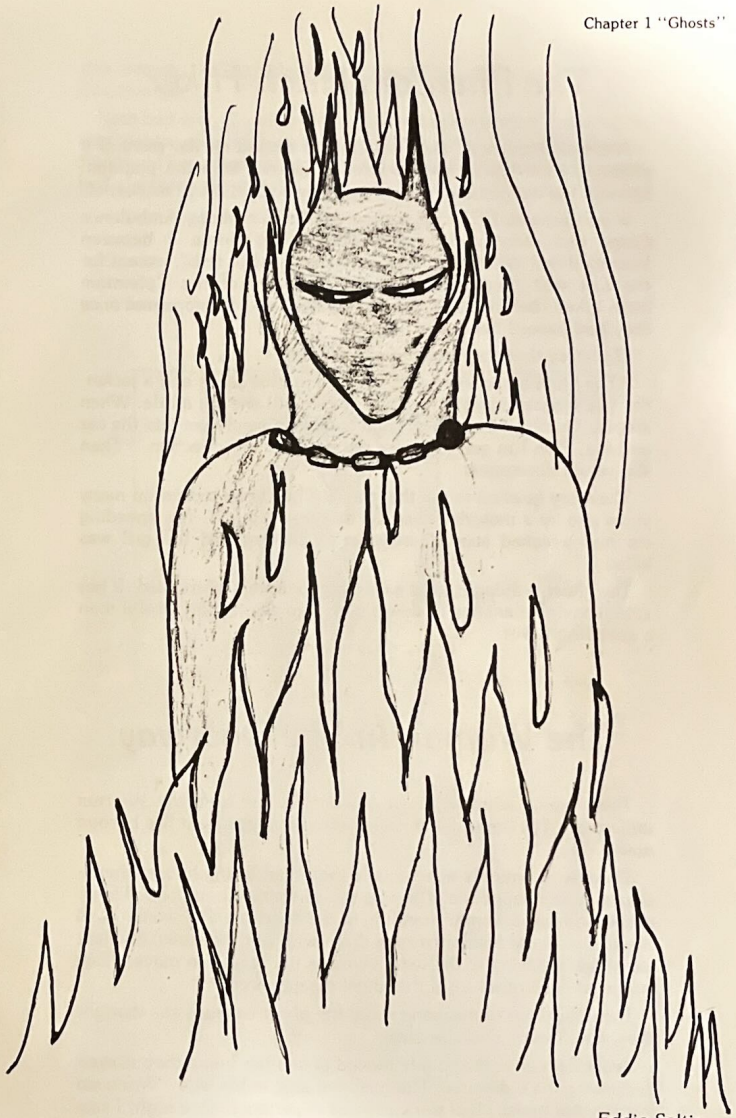
The Unwanted Attic Guest

Many years ago a ghost made its presence known to a Hooverson Heights family.

The family had six boys, the smallest being 6 ft. 2 in. The boys and their father had heard footsteps coming from the attic to the first floor. When the footsteps would reach the bottom of the stairs, the door would open, shut, and the footsteps would return to the attic. After hearing this for many nights, the boys decided to wait up for the ghost.

The boys and their father were not disappointed by the ghost, who began his usual rounds. The six boys and their father tried to hold the door shut. The door flew open, and threw them across the kitchen. The door slammed shut and the footsteps ascended the stairs, never to return.

Whoever or whatever this was, the family never found the answer, but at least they didn't have to worry about the disturbance again.



Eddie Soltis

The Phantom Hitch-Hiker

A former student of Bethany College passed on the story of a phantom hitch-hiker. The story-teller had not seen the phantom himself, but worked with several people who said they had seen it.

It was around 1977 that several of the Wellsburg Ambulance Corps had seen a girl hitch-hiking along Route 2 between Warwood and Wellsburg. This is not unusual in itself, except for the fact that they had all heard the story of the "phantom hitch-hiker" before. Also, they thought she had dissappeared once they had passed her.

The story that they heard went like this:

"The hitch-hiker was a girl, dressed in blue jeans and a jacket. She used to stand by the road after dark until she got a ride. When she was finally picked up by somebody, she would get into the car and say, "Oh I'm sorry, you're not going in my direction." Then she would dissappear.

The story goes on to tell that this girl had been picked up many years ago by a motorist who was driving very fast. The speeding car had wrecked somewhere near Wellsburg and the girl was killed."

The ghost is thought to be a warning to drivers who speed. If her spirit convinces anyone to slow down, then she is more useful than a speeding ticket.

The Woman In The Doorway

There was a haunted house located not far from the Weirton underpass. The house is no longer standing because it has burned down.

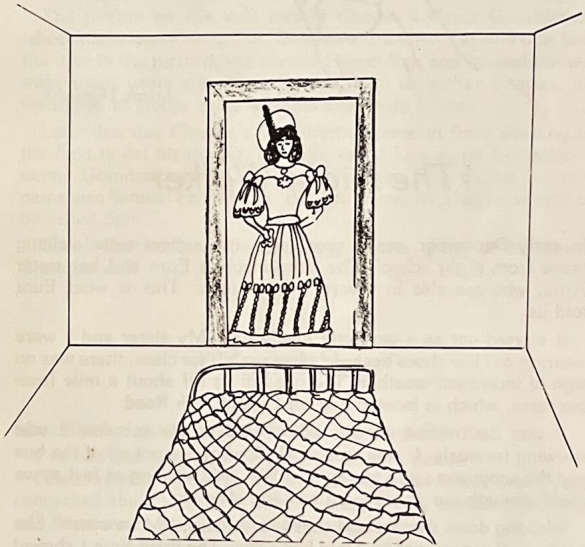
There was a middle aged couple that lived in the house when a strange thing happened. The wife was sleeping when she suddenly awoke and saw a woman standing in the doorway. The woman was dressed in an old fashioned type dress with puffy sleeves. She just stood there staring at the wife who was too scared to move. They stared at each other until the ghost disappeared.

The wife never told anyone about the ghost because she thought they would think she was crazy.

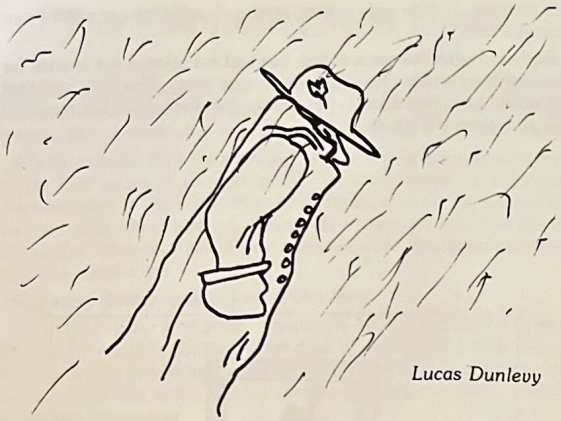
Years later after the couple moved to another home they started discussing the old house. The husband said to his wife "When we lived in that house I had the strangest experience. One night I saw

this woman..." The wife interrupted and said "never mind I can describe her."

Both had seen the same thing, but had not related the stories for fear that they would think each other was crazy. The wife said that she would have moved out a lot sooner had she known her husband had also seen the ghost.



Jeff Pugh



Lucas Dunlevy

✓The Night Walker

In early December, many years ago, two sisters were walking home from night school. The story involves Eura and her sister Arita, who are also in several other stories. This is what Eura told us:

It started out as a perfectly lovely day. My sister and I were wearing our low shoes because when we left for class, there was no sign of inclement weather. The bus left us off about a mile from our farm, which is located just off Cross Creek Road.

It was dark when we left school and to our surprise it was snowing furiously. It was around 11:00 when we got off of the bus and the snow was up to our ankles. We were walking as fast as we could, though our shoes were wet and slippery.

Walking down the street, I said to my sister, "Move over!" She paid no attention, and so I told her again. The third time I shoved her to the side. Arita, being very emotional, started to whimper. "Why did you shove me?," she asked. I told her that the man walking by almost knocked me over. She said, "What man?" I replied, "That... he was just there!" There was no one behind us and no tracks.

The man that I saw brushed up against me. I know he was there, but yet seconds later, he was gone. He was wearing a hat and had his hands in his pockets. His face was hidden because his head was down. I can still see that man today in my mind, though nobody would believe me.

✓Charles And His Great Grandfather

This is another story told to us by Mrs. Ulrich about her son.

When Charles was five years of age, he was scolded for talking to himself by his grandmother. Charles explained to his Grandmother that he was not talking to himself, he was talking to "Sam." He also went on by explaining who Sam was. He said, "You know Sam, he's the man whose picture is on the wall in Grandmother's bedroom."

The picture on the wall was of Charles's Great Grandfather whose name was Friend Cox. Charles's Grandmother told him that the man in the picture was named Friend Cox and he had passed away many years ago. This did not seem to bother Charles, he continued to jabber away with his imaginary friend.

Later that day Charles's Grandfather came in from working in the field to eat his dinner. His wife asked him about his father's name. Grandfather said, "They called him Friend, but his real name was Samuel Friend Cox. But you know, he always wanted to be called Sam."

Could Charles have been talking to the ghost of his Great Grandfather?

✓Aunt Sue

Mrs. Ulrich described another story involving Charles.

I've had one very strange experience with death.

After my sister's death, my five year old son didn't seem very concerned about losing his aunt. We are a very close knit family, so I wondered why Charles didn't seem to care.

About a month and a half after my sister's death, my sister's friend's daughter, who was four years old, had died. I didn't tell my children because I didn't think it was necessary to upset them since they didn't know the girl anyway.

About three days after the little girl had died, at two o'clock in the morning, my husband and I were awakened by my son's cries. It took my husband and I almost an hour to calm him, because he was crying so bitterly. When we could finally understand him, he said, "Aunt Sue will not be coming to see me anymore." I tried to explain to him that Aunt Sue was in heaven with the Lord. Then he said, "Yeah, I know that, but she still came to see me every night.

But tonight, she had a little girl with her, and she said she could not come back because she had to take care of the little girl."

My husband and I didn't know what to think because we never discussed the death of the little girl with him. We just thought it was a nightmare, but now I wonder...

It seems the very young and the very old see more than the rest of us.

A Father's Farewell

Many years ago, before funeral homes were commonly used, the family of the deceased would prepare the body for burial at home.

One such circumstance occurred in Follansbee. A large family, consisting of nine boys and a father, suffered the tragedy of the sudden death of the father. The time of death was in the evening, therefore the boys did not have time to prepare the body. For superstitious reasons the boys placed their father's body under the porch.

The boys slept in a dormitory style room, each bed next to the other. After the boys had been asleep for some time, the brothers began to see their father's image. He began at the bed closest to the door, stopping at the end of each bed, until he had stopped at each boy's bed. It was as if he was tucking in each son for the last time.

Could nine children have had the same dream or did they really see their father's spirit?

Grandmother's Ghost

A family living in Hooverson Heights was said to have had a strange experience.

The grandmother of the family lived in the same house. After a long and happy life she passed away in her sleep. Immediately after her death footsteps were heard through the house as though she were still alive. It seemed to her family as if the grandmother's spirit was still following her daily routine. This went on for three days. After three days, her spirit finally found its resting place.

The Misunderstood Ghost

Mrs. Louise Roberts told us this story about her contact with a ghost.

An unidentified man called her and demanded that she help him. "If you can't come over and help me, I'm just gonna shoot myself," he said.

The man's problem was, his wife had recently died of cancer. Her spirit had returned, and he described her as sitting at the window and staring, her chin in her hands. She was seen like this almost all the time and it was driving the man mad. The spirit tried to communicate with the man, but he could not understand what she was trying to say.

Mrs. Roberts called a good friend, another psychic, to go with her. It was clear to both women when they arrived, that the man had been drinking. They requested he wait outside while they talked to the ghost. They walked into the room where the man had seen the ghost. The two women did not actually see the ghost, but they could feel her presence. After they talked to her a while, they asked the ghost to leave her husband in peace before he goes crazy.

The man entered the room hysterically screaming that he didn't want the ghost to leave forever. (He obviously didn't know what he wanted.) To calm the man down, Mrs. Roberts asked the ghost to come back occasionally to visit him so he wouldn't be so lonely.

The two women left the man, not knowing what would happen next. They were a little frightened by him, and happy to get out of there. Three days later, Mrs. Roberts received a phone call from the man saying the ghost had left.

The Ghost of Miss Pearl Mahaffey

The ghost of Miss Mahaffey, former French teacher and trustee of Bethany College is the most realistic of the Bethany ghost we have researched.

English professor, John Taylor, a close friend of Miss Mahaffey's recalled that when Miss Mahaffey was alive, she was known throughout the campus as the most elegant and sophisticated lady, set on old fashioned ways.

Pearl Mahaffey was born in 1880 and came to Bethany in 1908 to organize a YWCA on campus. She stayed in Bethany for all but a year of her life and at the age of 69 was made a trustee of the college. Miss Mahaffey retired as a trustee of the college when she turned 88 because she felt too old for the job. Many people felt she acted younger than some trustees who were 40 years younger.

Miss Mahaffey was well known and loved by many. On her 90th birthday, she received gifts and cards from all over the United States and even some from Europe. John Taylor remembered that Miss Mahaffey received at least 15 bushels of greeting cards. Bethany College gave her a willow tree that was planted along the path that goes from Oglebay Hall to Oglebay Gate.

Taylor said that her identity was so strong throughout Bethany College that if anyone would haunt the grounds, it would be Miss Mahaffey.

Pearl Mahaffey died on Nov. 10, 1970, in Middleton, Ohio at a rest home only 4 or 5 months after leaving Bethany. In her will she left an estate worth over $50,000 to the College.

The summer after her death, Richard Vulgamore, an art student and part-time county detective moved into the house where Miss Mahaffey had lived most of her life. After living in the house with his wife and 2 small children, Vulgamore was convinced that the house was haunted. He began to research Miss Mahaffey's life and read books on ghosts and how to catch them. After asking many people about Miss Mahaffey and the house, he found a friend who had once lived in the house in the late 50s. Rich Frye explained that when he was a student, Miss Mahaffey would rent out the upstairs and he lived there while attending Bethany.

Frye told Vulgamore about some of Miss Mahaffey's daily routine. She would walk up the stairs, bang on the top of the staircase and as soon as she had knocked proceed right into the apartment. This annoyed Frye at the time, but she always kept an eye on her tennants and had no intension of changing.

She also had a habit of watching the 11:00 News on TV, and after

it was over she would turn off the TV, turn off the lights and walk to the bathroom at the end of the hall. Then she would turn on the hot water and leave it running while she went into her bedroom. After a few minutes, she would go back to the bathroom, by then the water was hot.

Vulgamore realized after Frye had talked to him that it was certainly her spirit that was present in the house. Several nights the TV had turned off by itself, the lights had gone off and the water in the bathroom would mysteriously start running. He and his wife had heard knocking and someone asking "who's there?" on the stairway.

Richard Vulgamore, being a sensible person, tried to collect some type of physical proof that a ghost was present in his house. He tried this by setting up a camera and a tape recorder in places where he had heard sounds. But like most good ghosts, the strange occurrences never took place until Vulgamore gave up trying to catch her in the act.

The Vulgamores no longer live in Miss Mahaffey's house and as far as we know, her spirit has not been into any mischief in recent years.

The Indian Ghost

One of the most unusual ghosts we have investigated in Bethany is what seems to be the spirit of an Indian. According to Dr. Hiram Lester, an Indian ghost was reported to have been seen in Logans Hollow along Buffalo Creek and around the Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity House.

The ghost has been seen running with a tomahawk in his hand, threatening to attack any person who gets in his way.

One of the fraternity brothers at the "Alpha Sig" house has had an encounter with the ghost. He thought he was meeting another fraternity brother, until whoever it was came upon him and, only then, when he dodged the attacking spirit did he realize what it was.

Lester said that the Indian apparition was thought by many to be the ghost of Chief Logan, a Shawnee Indian, who went on the warpath along the Ohio Valley after his family was senselessly killed by a group of white men. It should be pointed out however, that Chief Logan never was in Bethany according to history.

The Courtship of Bethany College

(a note from our teacher)

In Bethany, there seems to be an abundant supply of spirits to keep the College students from boredom. It could be that the students have livelier imaginations or possibly they have not learned yet to say only those things that are logical and believable.

All Bethany students are required to take a course that teaches them the history and heritage of Bethany. They realize the importance that their College had had on Education in the U.S.A. They live and attend classes in buildings that are over a hundred years old. They walk in the footsteps of people who have made history. If this isn't enough to make a young mind race, then that mind is encased in a rock, rather than a human brain. Of course I'm not suggesting that the ghost stories we have told are true. They were relayed by young people who have to make a place like Bethany come alive for them, or they will doze through their college years in that sleepy little town.

These stories are pure entertainment to me, much more than TV can provide these days. They are neither proof that there are, or proof that there are not ghost that walk, drive, fly or run with tomahawks, through Bethany. But then again, what if they are true?

Pendleton Heights

At Bethany College is Pendleton Heights, the oldest building on campus. Dr. Perry Gresham resided there while president of Bethany and reported hearing "from time to time...strange and mysterious tappings." Gresham said that at one time there were slave quarters in Pendleton's basement and assumed the sound must be from the slaves who were still lamenting their lack of freedom. Gresham said he also heard the ghosts at the windows.

The Phantom Volkswagon of Route 88

This legend was popular in the 1960's. Dr. Grimes, a Bethany College professor, said the story was usually related to him by a hysterical young lady. Dr. Grimes pointed out that the phenomenon usually occurred at dark around 9:00. He also said the Phantom Volkswagon usually appeared as the driver came back along Route 88 from Wheeling or Weirton, and sometimes along Route 67. The story he told went like this:

"A car will suddenly follow a lone woman driver sometime after passing Oglebay Park. The person driving very quickly senses the car is following them. It drives very close - the lights are blinding. The person has a tremendous sense that if she turns on a strange road, the car would follow. This goes on all the way into Bethany."

One witness, while attending college at Bethany a few years ago, said she had the experience along Route 88, returning from Weirton. She identified the car as a Volkswagon. She also reported that it refused to pass her. It then disappeared when she reached the junction of Routes 88 and 67.

The Trolley Tragedy

In the early 1800s, a trolley car carried mine workers back and forth from Bethany to Wellsburg. The tracks ran next to what is now Route 67. One and a half miles from Bethany lay Ghost Hollow, where there was an extremely sharp S-curve. A cliff is on one side and a large rock cropping on the other. The trolley tracks spanned the hollow, held up by trestles.

A former student of Bethany explained how Ghost Hollow might have gotten its name.

"For years and years the trolley car ran with no accidents. At first, people used to fear the trolley, especially when it crossed the hollow. They would stop the trolley so the riders could walk across the gulley and meet the trolley at the other side. But, as the years went by, the people began to ride the trolley across.

One fateful evening, the trolley didn't make it across. It plunged down into the deep gulley near the Buffalo. And now when you drive by the hollow, when the moon is full and it is midnight, you

can hear the voices of the people screaming and yelling as they did that night so many years ago."

This story has not been verified, but the student who revealed the legend, has lived near Bethany all her life. Her family had passed down the story and they believed it to be true.

Jessica-The Alpha Sigma Phi Pledge Ghost

The Alpha Sigma Phi house seems to enjoy a lot of notoriety for its ghosts. Several old buildings in Bethany have been thought to have spirits living in them, but few have as many different types of ghosts as the fraternity house on Point Breeze.

The next ghost siting at Bethany involves a woman who had been seen near the pond of the Alph Sig house.

The student who saw the spirit said "she was filmy, sort of all white gauze." Some of the students decided that she was the ghost of Jessica Nave. Jessica was one of Colonel Nave's daughters and because of the stories already being told about the Colonel haunting the Alpha Sig house, some people probably thought that the two ghosts must be linked together.

What we suspect to be the truth is that each year when, the fraternity has prospective brothers pledge the Alpha Sigs. The brothers take the pledges to the pond and try to frighten them with some horror story about the ghost that haunts the area due to a tragic death.

This is not a proven fact, but the fact that the Alpha Sigma Phi brothers have been connected with several different ghost sitings in itself is reason to doubt their reliability. We also wonder about the alcohol in their blood at the time they saw the spirit.

However, Jessica Nave's spirit could still be walking around. It was discovered that she did commit suicide at the age of 50. Though most likely she would be haunting her old Baltimore residence, where she had taken her own life after 2 unsuccessful marriages.

The Ghost Of The Alpha Sig House

One of the best known ghost stories of Bethany College is the story of Colonel William H. Nave. His spirit has been around for quite some time. Nave died in 1905 and is said to haunt the Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity House, which at one time was part of his estate.

The fraternity house was at one time called the Point Breeze Mansion. It originally belonged to Alexander Campbell and the estate surrounding it incompassed all the area now used for housing College personnel.

The Bethany College Library files show that Nave died from a heart attack while he was sitting on a bench built into the wall in the front room of the house.

Professor William Young, Chairman of Bethany History Department, recalled an amusing anecdote about the Colonel's funeral. He could not verify the story but he explained that the florist shop had been contracted to do the floral arrangements for both the Nave funeral and for a bank that had moved into a new building in Wheeling. A wreath arrived at the funeral parlor with, "Welcome to your new home" blazened across it.

The Alpha Sigma Phi brothers who claimed to have seen him told of his spirit wearing a red smoking jacket. One brother said he had seen Colonel Nave walking around on the third floor. Others have heard him. That floor used to be the ballroom before it was closed in and supposedly was his favorite room in the house.

The ghost of Colonel Nave has never been known to do anything nasty but sometimes he has been a nuisance. There are a number of stories at the Fraternity House about doors being opened or a window that was known to be shut found open.

One of the things the Colonel dislikes, like a cat is a closed door. He'll just unlock the doors and do whatever he pleases, but he has never been known to hurt anyone. He only wants to make sure that everyone knows that he still runs the house.

Kevin Davis, a biology major stayed at the house one summer while taking a summer course at Bethany. Dr. Lester described what happened to Davis that summer.

"Late at night, when Kevin and another student, Cliff Wright, were the only people in the house, Kevin sometimes heard someone beat on his door. Kevin thought Cliff was playing a practical joke. Cliff said he hadn't been out of his room."

"This happened a few times. Kevin was unnerved and locked

his door and went to bed. The next morning, Kevin's door was wide open. That bothered him, but he thought someone else must have had the key. Since the locks had to be changed because former brothers had moved out and had taken their keys with them, Kevin decided he would start installing new locks immediately. His room first."

"The next day, Davis put on a lock which didn't slip closed. The lock also had a safety latch which acted as a double lock so even a person with a key could not enter the room. Kevin also wrote himself a note that night to remind him that he had locked the door. He put the note and the key in his pajama pocket. - The next day, the door was not only unlocked, but slightly ajar."

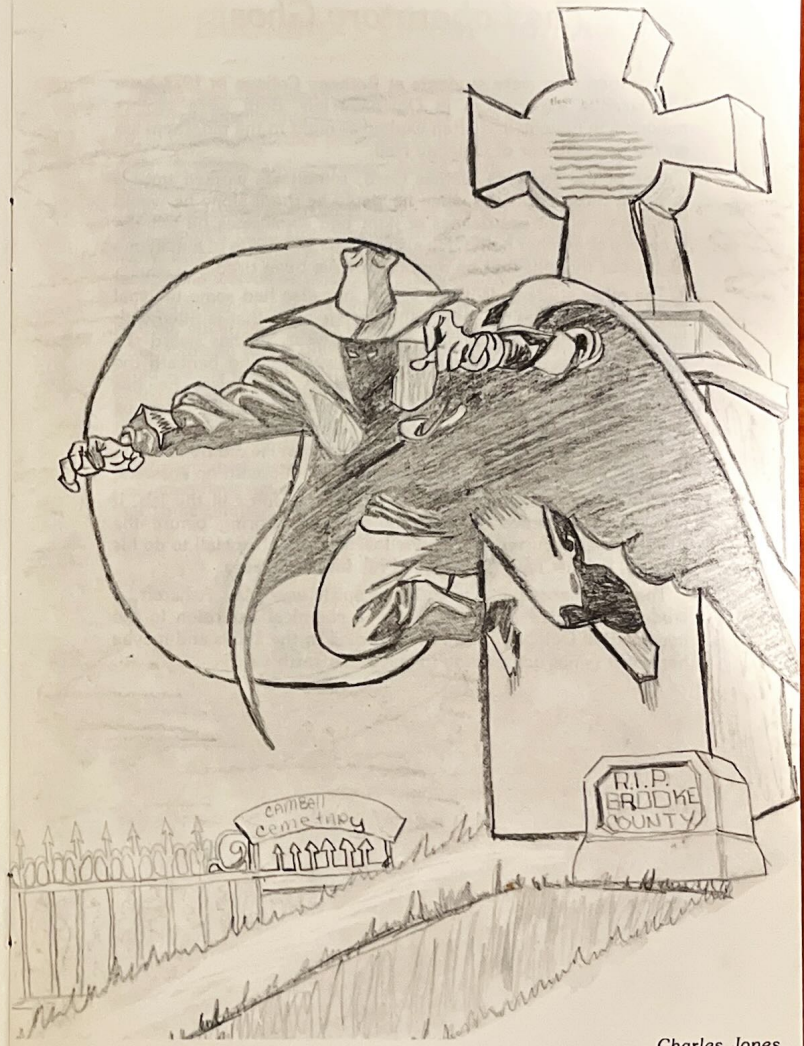
The Ghost Of Alexander Campbell

Joseph Ambrose, a student of Bethany College, went with a few of his friends to Peace Point in November of 1973. They were hoping to see what Bethany looked like after a recent snow fall. On the way back, Ambrose walked over to Campbell Cemetery out of curiosity. While there, Ambrose thought he saw the figure of a man. He related that he thought at first it was a figment of his imagination. He rejoined his friends and returned to town.

An hour later he went back to the cemetery alone to try to clear his mind of what he had seen before. He peered over the wall and saw the same man pacing between two graves, looking very worried. What was even stranger was that there were no footprints in the snow where the man had walked.

He never told anyone about his experience until the next semester when he took a course in Religious Studies. The main topic of the course was Alexander Campbell, who was the founder of the Disciples of Christ Church and also the founder of Bethany College.

Ambrose recalled that while watching a slide presentation of Alexander Campbell he looked up to see the same man that was pacing between the two graves in the Cemetery - Alexander Campbell. He had never seen his picture before and he was sure that he had seen the spirit of the most important man from Bethany.



Charles Jones

The Laboratory Ghost

Two men who were students at Bethany College in 1977 have had strange experiences in Oglebay Hall. Both were seniors majoring in biology and often worked at night in the bio/chem lab on the second floor of Oglebay Hall.

One of the students, James Gerb, sometimes worked until 4 a.m. On those occasions when he would be there alone he would hear doors slam, see flashes of light and sometimes he felt the presence of another being. He also saw the silhouette of a man one night, but thought that he might just have been tired.

The other student, William Wood, has also had some unusual encounters while at the lab. In the storage room that is filled with stuffed and mounted animals and glasswear, he has heard the sound of glass tingling as if someone was walking beneath the floor boards. Every time he has heard the noise, he has investigated, but found nothing. However, one night when he went into the storage room, he felt a cold breeze. Wood said it felt as if something unnatural had rushed past him. He did try to locate the source of the breeze, but again he came up with no answers.

Both students thought that if there was a spirit in the lab, it could be Dr. James Sawtell who died the Spring before the disturbances occurred. Dr. Sawtell went to Oglebay Hall to do his writing, it must have been one of his favorite places.

The other possibility is that the spirit was May Ashcraft, a student who died as the result of a chemical explosion in the basement of Oglebay Hall. Ashcraft died in the 1960s and maybe her spirit is not quite ready to leave this earth yet.

Bethany's Ghost Hollow

There have been several people who have heard strange noises or seen unusual sights at Ghost Hollow. One story was told by Dr. Perry Gresham, former president of Bethany College.

Dr. Gresham and a friend, James Carty, were returning to Bethany after a lecture one night when it began to snow heavily. The two men had to abandon their car when it was unable to climb Buchannan's Hill. The men began the 2 mile walk when both heard howling sounds. Though the sounds gave them an eerie feeling, no wolves or wild dogs presented themselves.

Gresham and Carty continued walking and soon reached Ghost Hollow, when they heard the strangest sound. They both heard what sounded like a giant bird flapping its wings. Neither men could see the bird, even though both could see very clearly. They heard the unmistakable sound of beating wings repeat itself three times.

The two men continued walking with an added quickness to their step when they were picked up and given a ride back to town. Both men have never found any possible answer as to what made that spine-tingling noise.

The Dream Of Myrtle Cox

Around 1905, Myrtle Cox had a dream later found to be reality.

One morning Myrtle woke up and told the family of the dream she had the night before. The characters in her dream were people she knew and who lived close by. This is the story that she told her family, and her daughter relayed to us.

Pearson Davis and his wife, Sarah, lived together in the hills of Brooke County. One weekend, their son returned home from college with his friend Ed Lockhart. Though Sarah was much older than Ed, she found that she was very attracted to him. Ed felt the same attraction and he asked Sarah to divorce her husband to be with him. She did just that and Ed quit college and married Sarah.

An unusual relationship developed between Pearson and Sarah even though they were now divorced. After a short period of time being married to Ed, Sarah realized that she still loved her ex-husband. She invited Pearson over regularly when Ed was away and soon Ed found out about Pearson's visits. Ed warned him to stay away from his wife, but Pearson continued to see Sarah.

One morning, while riding his black stallion, Pearson was shot as he was crossing the creek. His horse reared and threw his lifeless body into the water. Ed Lockhart steadied the horse and rode off, never to be seen in Brooke County again.

Shortly after Myrtle told this story to her family, the Sheriff arrived and asked the men in the house to help in the search for Pearson Davis's murderer. Myrtle and her family were shocked to find that her dream matched the details that the Sheriff had described. Though the Sheriff and his men searched for many days, the posse never caught up with Ed.

Around 1966, in a local newspaper, it was brought out that on his death-bed, Ed confessed to the murder of Pearson Davis. After his flight from justice, it was revealed that he lived in another state, changed his name and remarried.

Myrtle's daughter read the article about Ed's confession and only then did anyone realize how amazing Myrtle's dream was.

Death Dream

A similar story to Myrtle's is one told to us by Ruth Pikens.

Her father, Don Shawver, was sleeping one night when he was disturbed by a dream about his cousin's death. His cousin's name was Von Abel. Don and he grew up together and were the best of friends, though they were only cousins by marriage. The next morning after he had explained the dream to his wife, a knock was heard at the door. A neighbor had come to tell them that Von had died in the middle of the night.

Don later found out that his cousins death occurred at the same time he had the dream.

Brown's Island Explosion As Told by Mrs. Louise Roberts

One night I was lying in bed and I could see an island. I couldn't figure out where it was because my psychic instinct isn't developed enough. There were men on the island with hard hats, so I assumed the island was somewhere in the ocean. As it turned out, this was not true.

All of a sudden I heard this explosion, and all the water surrounding the island turned to mud.

I looked around and saw many bodies, none of whom I knew. I was terribly confused and upset because I could not place where or why this thing was happening.

The next day my friend's husband was working at Brown's Island, when the explosion occurred. Fortunately, he was on a late break and was not injured. However, many of his co-workers were not so lucky. To this day, I do not know why this vision came to me. I often wonder if my psychic ability was further developed if I could have prevented this.

The facts found in the newspaper the next day were as follows:

The men working at the plant had just started their morning break when the first of two explosions took place.

The two subsequent blasts occurred as coke gas from ruptured lines collecting in the small vicinity at the base of a 10 story coal silo.

Overhead was a 36-inch green pipe which carried the deadly

coke gas from the old plant across the river at the Weirton Division of National Steel Co.

Koppers Co. held the contract to build the coke plant for the steel-making firm. Officials admitted the firm was "several months behind schedule."

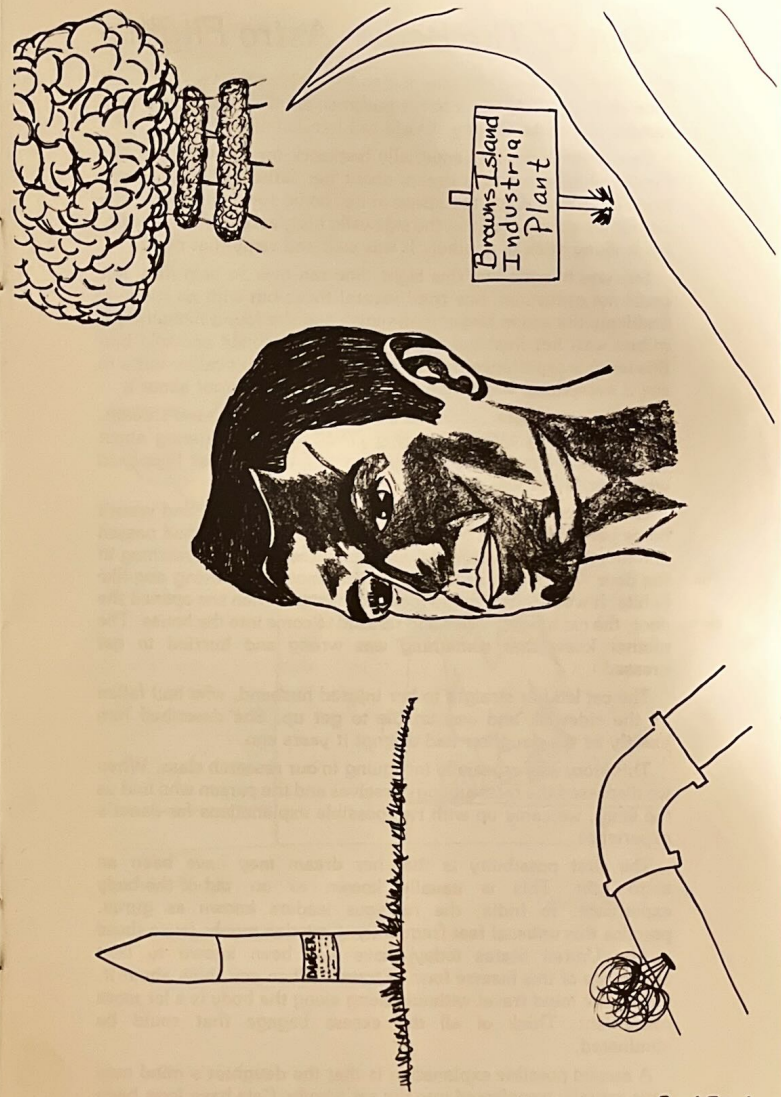
The dead men included not only employees of Koppers Co., but also two from the steel company and at least five from Yobe Electric, Inc., a sub-contractor.

A total of 676 persons were on Brown's Island when the explosion occurred. Supervisors were unable to account for some of them so the company initially announced the death total at 21. That number was reduced when two men were found to be at home. Approximately 20 others were injured and either treated or admitted to hospitals in Weirton and nearby Steubenville, Ohio.

The Second Explosion

After the Browns Island explosion, Mrs. Roberts had a similar experience while reading cards for a woman from Steubenville. In her mind she could see another huge explosion at what looked like a chemical plant. The first plant she thought of was Koppers, here in Follansbee because that was the closest producer of chemicals. The details she could see gave her no other clues to where this explosion took place.

Later that day Mrs. Roberts learned that there was an explosion that occurred in Steubenville. A warehouse that was used for storing chemicals had had a fire that set off several chlorine explosions. She also found out that her daughters were in Steubenville that day and that could be the reason she had seen the vision. Her daughters were not harmed, but like most people in Steubenville that day, evacuated because of the toxic smoke that filled the air for several hours.



Brad Reed

Out Of The Body - Astro Flight

This story was told to us about a woman from England who now resides in Brooke County. (We'll call her Janet)

One night Janet was especially homesick for England and her family when she had a dream about her father. She could see herself walking down the street in her home town when she saw her father sprawled out on the sidewalk, his glasses off to one side, his walking stick to another. It was cold and rainy that night.

She was horrified by this sight. She ran over to help him, but could not grasp him. She tried several times but with no success. Suddenly the vision began to diminish and she found herself back in bed with her husband. Janet woke her husband and told him this terrible experience. For some reason she didn't call or write to see if everything was alright. After a while she forgot about it.

Several years later, after her father's and her husband's death, she was visiting with her mother. They were reminiscing about their family. Janet's mother told her of an event that happened while her father was still alive.

It was a cold, rainy night. It was late and her husband wasn't home yet. The mother became alarmed when an hour had passed and he still had not returned. Suddenly, there was a scratching at the door - it was her cat. This cat was known for having dog-like habits. It would often run to meet its master. When she opened the door, the cat lunged at her and refused to come into the house. The mother knew that something was wrong and hurried to get dressed.

The cat led her straight to her injured husband, who had fallen on the sidewalk and was unable to get up. She described him exactly as the daughter had drempt it years ago.

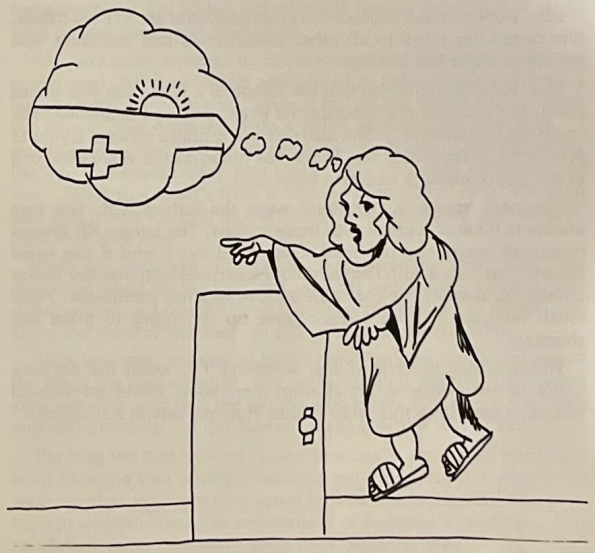
This story was especially intriguing to our research class. When we discussed the facts among ourselves and the person who told us the story, we came up with two possible explanations for Janet's experience.

The first possibility is that her dream may have been an astro-flight. This is uaually known as an out-of-the-body experience. In India, the religious leaders known as gurus, practice this unusual feat frequently. Christian monks (even those in the United States today) have also been known to take advantage of this bizarre form of travel. When you think about it, letting the mind travel without taking along the body is a lot more convenient. Think of all the excess bagage that could be eliminated.

A second possible explanation is that the daughter's mind may have actually transferred into the cat's body. Cats have long been

known to have super-natural powers. Maybe there is a reason for them always being connected to witches.

We have learned through working with the unexplainable not to throw any possibility out. An open mind is our most important asset.



Brian Reed

A Premonition Of An Assasination

This is one of the most unusual psychic experiences Mrs. Roberts told us.

One day while reading cards for a friend over the phone, Mrs. Roberts began to see a vision. The man she saw she described as being very prominent, wealthy with brown hair and brown eyes. In her mind she could see someone trying to murder him. She saw a light haired light eyed man firing a gun several times.

Mrs. Roberts tried to place the attempted murder in Follansbee. She closed her mind to all other possibilities and therefore was unable to place the attempt.

Mrs. Roberts explained that the image of a television was in her mind, but because she thought the event was in Follansbee, she could not understand it. She also saw many police officers trying to relieve the mass confusion. There was blood on the sidewalks, one of the police officers had also been shot.

The next image in her mind were the letters R.R. She was unable to think of anyone with those initials. The letters RR always reminded her of the rail road. She asked her friend if she knew anyone associated with the railroad. Her friend said that her father in-law had worked for the railroad, but was not prominent. After much discussion, both women gave up on trying to place the shooting.

The next day her friend was watching TV, when the network broke in to announce an attempt had been made on Ronald Reagan's life. Was this what Louise Roberts saw in her vision?

Three Sisters And The Gypsy

This is the story of three sisters from Brooke County. The middle sister, Eura, was the one who told us about this strange experience.

My younger sister, Susanna was very ill and in the Pittsburgh hospital. My older sister, Arita, would go with me every day to visit Susanna.

One day while in Pittsburgh, we stopped at a gypsy restaurant to have lunch. The food in the hospital cafeteria was reason enough to make us look for another place to relax and enjoy our meal. This restaurant had the added attraction of having gypsies that could read palms, cards and tea leaves.

We were both intrigued by the place and out of curiosity had our palms read. Arita went first and while her palm was being read, I began to play with my ring, when it fell off my finger and rolled to the gypsy. She dropped Arita's hand immediately and said, "I must see what this ring wants since it came to me." She picked up the ring and examined it. She said, "This ring does not belong to you." Well, that wasn't true, it was my high school ring. She then said that it was my ring by ownership only, someone else wore it. Now that was true.

Since my marriage, my mother had worn my class ring, but today she asked me to take it because her hands were swollen. The gypsy somehow knew this and discribed my mother in detail. She knew the color of her hair, to the type of shoes she wore.

Arita was very impressed by this and handed the gypsy one of the rings she was wearing. The gypsy studied the ring and looked very sad. She said that the person who wears this ring is very sick and will probably not get better unless it is the will of God.

The ring she was looking at was Susanna's. Arita was wearing it until Susanna was released because patients were not allowed to wear jewelry. We were very upset by what the gypsy had said even though we both knew the seriousness of Susanna's condition. This revelation came true two weeks later Susanna died.

How could the gyspy have known so much about Susanna and my mother from a mere object? Do the things we wear absorb our energy?

The Lost Ring

Psychics have been known to help people find things that have been lost. One such event happened in Follansbee.

A lady, (we'll call Sarah) had lost an expensive diamond ring somewhere. Sarah suspected that a little neighbor girl had misplaced it somewhere in the house. She made the mistake of letting the girl play in her jewelry box the day before. At least if the girl had lost it there would be a chance of finding the ring, but if someone had stolen it, you could almost be sure that it would never be seen again.

Louise Roberts, a local psychic was asked to read Sarah's cards, in hopes that she might be of some help in finding her lost jewelry.

Upon meeting Sarah, Louise asked her if she had lost a statue. Immediately Louise corrected herself and told Sarah that she had lost an expensive diamond ring, not a statue. She did feel though that a statue was somehow involved. Louise said that the ring was by a statue somewhere in the house.

Mrs. Roberts went to Sarah's house to read for some of Sarah's friends. When she looked around the house, she saw more statues than she had ever seen in one place before. From one of Sarah's friends, Louise found out that Sarah made ceramic figures. As soon as she heard the word ceramic, she knew immediately that the ring could be found where the unfinished ceramic statues were.

Louise asked Sarah if the little girl had been playing by her ceramics. She said that the girl had gotten into her paints downstairs where she kept her ceramics. Louise knew then the ring could be found downstairs.

The next day, when Sarah had time to make a thorough search, she found the ring beside a trunk. under three shelves holding unfinished ceramic statues. Could this have been all coincidence?

After Death

In 1964, a Brooke County man was in critical condition after gall bladder surgery. His fever was so severe that he had to lay on a refrigerated bed. While he was in this condition, his mother passed away. He was not told about this for fear of upsetting him, which could lead to his own death.

Several weeks later he was told about his mother's death. The family explained that she died when he was in critical condition and they feared he wouldn't have handled the situation well.

After hearing about his mother's death, this man told his family about a strange experience he had at the time of his illness.

He could see his mother at the end of a long tunnel. She was calling for him to come to her. He must have decided that other people needed him more than she did, because he chose to live.

This experience is similar to others we have heard. This man was one of the many who has had an amazing "near death experience."

In The Dead Of Winter

Ruth Russell told this story to her daughter, Alexis, who in turn told us.

In the winter of 1960, an elderly woman who had resided on Walker Road, in Follansbee, had died in the night. At the time, it had been snowing severely and by the time the ambulance was called, the roads were becoming impassable. The ambulance was sent anyway, only to find out that it was impossible to climb the steep hills of Follansbee.

The City truck was plowing the roads that night and found the ambulance stranded on Parkview Hill. The paramedics asked the City workers if they would help them out by taking the dead woman's body to the morgue. The truck driver and his helper agreed to do it and went to get the woman after helping the ambulance out of the ditch.

When the men arrived at the woman's house, they couldn't decide what to do with the old woman's body. Out of respect for the dead, the men decided that it would not be right to put the lady's body in the back of the truck. The only alternative to that, would be to sit her up in the front seat between them, which is what they did.

Can you picture the three of them clearing the snow, making their way to town? It must have been a chilling experience.

Gruesome Tragedy of the 60's in Colliers Mine

[Newspaper article printed in the 1800's]

Colliers, W.Va. February 23, 1895. People are very much excited in this village over a recent find, which, it is claimed, cleared up a mystery of 32 years standing — the remains of four human beings having been discovered in an abandoned coal mine a mile east of here.

David Snyder has explored the mine which has not been worked since the 60's, and discovered the remains. One of the skeletons was sitting upright against a ledge. Beside this skeleton was found a flask containing a note that explained the mysterious disappearance of John Ewing, Ben Ayers, Tom Akleson and Joe Obney, 32 years ago. The notes were written in pencil, but well preserved. They read as follows:

November 2, 1863 - should this ever reach the outside world, let it be known that we (giving names) are prisoners here owing to the closing of the mine. We are deserters and are hiding here when the mine closed in. Food and water all about gone. We are doomed as no one outside knows of our whereabouts. This is about the eighth day of our imprisonment.

November 4 — John Ewing and Tom Eckleson have just killed Ben Ayers and are eating him. The water in the mine is terrible. Our oil is running scarce, air becoming foul. Know the day of the month by my watch.

November 6 — Ewing has just killed Eckelson - cut off one of his feet and is eating it and is flourishing his knife like a maniac.

November 7 — I am now alone with the dead. I had to kill Ewing in self defense. I have eaten my other boot leg. Am sleepy, goodbye. I have enclosed this note in the flask to preserve it, if possible, so that if ever found, our sad fate will be known.

(Signed, Joseph Obney)

Submitted by Virginia Herd

Experienced Death And Living To Tell About It

In the 1980s, with our present medical knowledge, it is not unheard of for people to experience death and live to tell about it. With many people knowing CPR, mechanical defibrilators being used and synthetic adrenalin available, many people are saved from an early grave. Some of these people have experienced a type of clinical death which allows their spirit to leave the body. They are then revived by their doctor, they return to their body and tell others about this strange experience.

Mrs. Eura Ulrich told us that she knew three different people who had this type of out-of-the-body experience. She said that their stories were all similar. They went through a dark tunnel and came out into a brilliant white. They were able to see their body and what was being done to it to try to bring it back to life. One of the people that experienced this was Eura's mother, Myrtle Cox.

Captivity Of Mrs. Glass

Early pioneer women were often called upon to show qualities of bravery, on an equal plane with the men. A case in point is that of Mrs. Glass.

On the morning of March 27, 1789 Mrs. Glass sat spinning in her home near the present site of Bethany. Her black woman who had stepped outside to gather sugar water screamed, "Here are the Indians."

Mrs. Glass jumped to the door where she met one of the Indians presenting a gun. Catching hold of it and turning the muzzle aside, she begged him not to kill her but to take her prisoner. The other Indian caught the negro woman and her four year old son and brought them into the house. They ransacked a chest but took only a small box and a few articles of clothing. They then set off with Mrs. Glass, her son, the negro and her two children.

After going about one and a half miles they halted and consulted about killing the children. To one of the Indians who spoke a little English, Mrs. Glass held out her little boy and begged that his life be spared as he would make a fine Indian after a while. The other savage struck the negro boy with the pipe end of his tomahawk. He then dispatched him with a blow across the neck and scalped him before the horrified women.

The Ohio River was reached about four o'clock. They boarded a canoe which had been hidden in some driftwood. In this they worked their way down stream to the mouth of Rush Run. Pulling the canoe into the mouth as far as they could, they went up the run about a mile, where they camped for the night. They did give their prisoners two blankets for cover.

At sunrise they were marched up a very steep hill, and traveled until about two o'clock, halting on the site of a previous encampment. There, in a hollow tree, was the plunder taken from a Mr. VanMeter whose family had recently been killed. The Indians made a fire, put on a brass kettle, filled it with sugarwater, and put a turkey on to boil, which they had shot during the day.

Mr. Glass and his hired man had been working in a field about a quarter mile from the house. He did not know of the events of the morning until about two o'clock. After searching and visiting several houses in his quest, Mr. Glass went to Mr. Wells' fort and collected ten men. They set out for the bottom (Wellsburg), and spent the night there in a log cabin.

The next morning Mr. Glass distinguished the track of his wife's high heeled shoe near the place where the Indians had obtained the canoe. Glass's party crossed the river, and went down until they came near the mouth of Rush Run. Seeing no sign, most of

the men concluded the captives would be taken to the Muskingum River. They wished to return home, but agreed to go three miles farther to the mouth of Short Creek on the Virginia side.

When they reached Rush Run, they discovered the canoe. This was identified by papers dropped in the bottom by Mrs. Glass, under pretense of giving them to her child with which to play. The trail up the run, then up the hill was quickly discovered, and easily followed, owing to the softness of the ground and the height of the weeds.

Within an hour after the Indians had halted, Mr. Glass and his men came within sight of the camp.

The rescuers wished to save the lives of the prisoners by an unexpected attack. They crept within one hundred yards of the camp.

Meanwhile Mrs. Glass's little boy had gone to a sugar tree to get some water, but not being able to get it from the bark trough, his mother stepped out of camp to aid him. The other woman captive was sitting at some distance from the bark trough, and the Indians were looking at a scarlet jacket which they had taken some time before. Suddenly they dropped the jacket and turned their eyes to the men, who, thinking they were discovered, discharged their guns, and rushed them at full speed.

One of the Indians, it was supposed, was wounded, fell, and dropped his gun and shot pouch. The other, after running about a hundred yards was brought to his hands and knees by a shot from Major McGuire. There was no time for pursuit, as the Indians had told Mrs. Glass of another Indian camp close by. They therefore returned home with all speed, and reached Beech Bottom Fort that night.

Believe It Or Not

Living on a farm, there are many opportunities to see very strange phenomena.

The Roush family who lived on a farm many years ago on Archer Heights in Follansbee conveyed one very strange story to us.

On the Roush farm several roosters were neutered, which farmers refer to as capons. Several weeks after the operation, the incisions had not completely healed. One day a severe windstorm came upon the farm. This lead to a strange occurrence. The wind blew into the incisions and the capons blew up like baloons and floated up into the trees and on top of the hen house. Mrs. Roush called her sons to help her immediately. She gave them each hat pins to let the air out the capons.

The boys did as their mother said and after they poked each capon, the trapped air was released and the capons were put back in the hen house.

Lucas Dunlevy

Palm Reading

A long time ago, there lived a Greek writer and teacher named Aristotle. He began to study lines on people's hands. For many years, there have been palm readers in every country in the world. Some read palms for the enjoyment, others believe it shows the person's personality and facts about their past and their future.

The lines are different on the right and left hands. Most palm readers start the reading by choosing the hand with fewer lines. Here are some of the main lines and what they mean to some palm readers:

•••••••The life line begins between the thumb and the pointer finger and curves upward toward your arm.

Life line — The life line has nothing to do with how long you live. When the life line has breaks in it, that is a sign that there will be changes in your life. You might move to a different neighborhood or farther. You might even change your career. A break may also mean that you will have a narrow escape from a bad accident.

Head line — The head line may begin in one of two places, it may start above the life line or it may run from the center of your hand. This line has to do with the way you think. The palm reader can tell how much planning you do.

Heart line — This line is at the top of the palm, below the fingers. On some hands the head line and heart line meet. The people who have this are those who can't decide if they should listen to feelings or logic.

Fate line — The fate line begins above the wrist and moves up the middle of the palm. If this line is deep and well defined, the person will make good in life and be well known. If the fate line meets the heart line, the palm reader may tell the person they will have good luck.

There are many smaller lines that palm readers use. They also look at the shape of the fingers and nails.

If you are wondering why we have chosen to research the area of palm reading, we will explain.

Not only does palm reading take place in Gypsy restaurants and carnivals, but in small towns such as Follansbee. We have tried to investigate the areas that have had some influence, (if small) on our county.

We are not suggesting that anyone should have their palm read, rather we are trying to understand the facts. It is difficult to study such areas scientifically.

Our teacher would not allow us to have our palms read because she didn't feel that such things belong in school. Most of us felt

that people who have their palms read, let their lives be influenced by what a palm reader says. There are already enough things that influence us.

The Mystery of the Pyramids

Pyramid power is a type of energy that forms within a pyramid. This is probably due to the five corners (including the top) directing some type of waves to the center.

Through experiments using scale models of the great pyramid, scientists have found that organic material will dehydrate rather than rot, dull razor blades will become sharp again, and water stored in a pyramid will make plants grow faster than water not stored in a pyramid. There are also individuals who think that pyramids will relieve pain and aid them in daily life if worn (sometimes hanging a pyramid over the bed or putting one under the bed has been effective in helping people to sleep. The experiments done to help sleep or relieve pain are not scientifically objective because most people will sleep better or feel better due to what is in the mind).

Two of the most important pyramidologists in the United States are Max Toth and Patrick Flanagan. They both feel that a pyramid attracts energy similar to antennae and the energy forms a beam of radiation concentrating in the center. Flanagan calls this radiation "biocosmic energy."

As far-fetched as the whole idea sounds, scientists have always been aware of the fact that there are many more forms of energy other than the few we now know. Possibly in the next few years we will find the solution to this mystifying problem.

Because of our curiosity, we decided to do an experiment using ten scale models of the Great pyramid. Using apples cut in 20 equal pieces, we placed ten pieces inside ten pyramids on two inch high platforms. We placed ten other pieces of apples outside the pyramids and covered each with styrofoam cups.

The reason we used ten pyramids and did the exact experiment in all of them was so we would have results that would prove or disprove the information we have read about pyramid power.

After two weeks under controlled conditions, we were surprised to find that the pyramid apples were dried and hard and only slightly discolored. The ones that were placed under the cups were moldy, dark brown and still held moisture.

We feel that since the experiment worked in ten out of ten cases that pyramids do have some type of energy that we cannot explain scientifically.

Would You Like To Be A Psychic?

We have asked ourselves this question during our research. You may, without thinking, say, "yes, being a psychic would be great." However, after talking to Mrs. Louise Roberts, a local psychic, we have come to the conclusion that being a psychic may not be all that it's cracked up to be.

Some disadvantages of being psychic are being able to see death and other tragedies in peoples' lives. We also found out that psychic experiences can often confuse you more than enlighten you.

There are some advantages though, of having this unique ability. You could try to prevent some things from happening that can be harmful. You could also make it a profitable business by helping people, some have even been known to help police departments find missing children. Here again you take the chance of being confronted with tragedy.

E.S.P.-Extra Sensory perception

There are three main types of ESP-Clairvoyance, Telepathy, and Precognition.

Clairvoyance is the power to see ghosts or objects that others aren't aware of. Most people who are clairvoyant don't know they have power until they come in contact with a ghost.

Precognition is the power to predict the future. This is the power that Mrs. Roberts is believed to have. There are probably many people who have this power and don't know it. In order to make it a useful ability it has to be developed.

Telepathy is when a person can read a persons mind or get a mental message from some other person without that person speaking to them. There is a lot of research being done in this area in several major Universities.

The brain is capable of many wonders. Future investigations will continue to amaze us.

Mrs. Roberts told us what it was like when she was young to have psychic ability.

"About the time of World War II when I would lay in bed at night, I would close my eyes and see Nazi soldiers marching. I could see their bluish gray uniforms and their high boots. There were bombs going off making ear-shattering noises. I would see and hear these things everynight, which would make me scream and cry, waking up the whole family."

Louise couldn't understand why she saw these things. Her

family probably thought she was losing her mind. She couldn't have seen these scenes on the TV because her family didn't have one. For some reason these images were transmitted to her mind. Why she saw them rather than someone else is also a mystery.

Whether or not you believe in psychic power, there is no doubt that people are gifted in one area more than others. If they choose to use this talent or ignore it, that's up to them. As far as psychic ability goes, it would be less painful to choose to ignore it. Those who do use it should be considered the brave ones.

Biorhythms

In our studies of unusual things, we came across biorhythms. What are biorhythms? They are natural clocks that run in our bodies. These are not the type of clocks that people use to tell time. Instead, they are mysterious cycles that control emotions, thinking ability and physical health to a certain extent.

Biorhythms are responsible for those days when for no apparent reason we feel tired, depressed or have trouble consentrating. We all have biorhythms constantly ticking away from the moment we breath our first breath to our last.

Biorhythms contain 3 cycles, each one having a different amount of time to run its course. The three cycles are-physical, taking 23 days. Emotional, taking 28 days and intellectual, taking 33 days.

Although we don't feel that these cycles can be accurate for everyone all the time, there are many scientists and large corporations who do. One corporation that uses biorhythms is United Airlines. What this Company does is chart each pilots biorhythms on their computer to make sure that two pilots with low biorhythms do not fly the same aircraft. United Airlines claims that their accident rate has gone down since they started charting biorhythms.

We are just starting to experiment with the accuracy of biorhythms, and as of now we are not sure if the cycles really work. It certainly is an interesting theory.

Snatched From The Jaws Of Death

There are probably many people from Brooke Co. who have had a near death experience. We have only found a few people who would talk about it.

In the early and mid 1970s aspects of death became a popular area of discussion. Several books, TV specials and movies have been written on the subject.

One of the newest books written is *Recollections of Death; A Medical Investigation,* by Dr. Michael Sabom, a cardiologist at Atlanta VA Medical Center. In his book, he interviewed a random sample of patients who had recovered from an injury or illness they were not expected to survive.

Of the patients interviewed, 40% had detailed memories of their experiences with near death. Several of the patients remembered floating above their bodies, others recall moving through a dark tunnel and into a bright light. Still others reported having both experiences, while a few witnessed a most unnatural panorama.

What is so unusual about this research is that most patients have nearly identical stories. All were aware of their own deaths. All had a vivid memory of what was going on though they were unconscious. Even though there were many differences between the types of people who were interviewed by Dr. Sabom, the results were not influenced by these differences.

This does not prove that there is a life after death, but it strongly suggests it. Faith does the rest.

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